

### VETERANS EDUCATION FLEXIBILITY ACT

(Mr. HIGGINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, the original GI Bill was one of the most significant pieces of legislation in American history. It is responsible for providing education to a generation of veterans—the right to rise—and it transformed our Nation's economy from an industrial-based economy to a knowledge-based economy.

Unfortunately, the GI Bill today sets forth limits for using these educational benefits. After leaving service, many veterans must postpone further education to support families or are unable to work due to lengthy rehabilitation from service-related injuries.

GI Bill benefits should not come with an expiration date. We should provide our veterans greater flexibility. That's why I've introduced the Veterans Education Flexibility Act. This legislation would remove the expiration date for veterans in order for them to take advantage of the GI Bill's educational benefits, and it would retroactively restore benefits to individuals whose benefits have already expired.

Mr. Speaker, caring for our veterans is more than thanking them for their service. On behalf of a good and generous Nation, we must restore the promise to and the potential of every returning veteran.

### OBAMACARE

(Mr. MULLIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MULLIN. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today not only as a Member of Congress but as a concerned American.

As a country, we cannot continue to ignore ObamaCare's impact on jobs and small businesses. This past Friday, our Nation witnessed yet another rise in the unemployment rate. Why is it becoming increasingly difficult for nearly 12 million Americans to secure jobs?

When you attack a small business, you attack the backbone of our economy.

American employers are struggling to manage this job-killing health care law. Health care now tops the concerns facing small business owners like myself. We will have to make the tough choice of whether to comply with the health care mandate or to reject it. This is yet another regulation that is choking our economy at a time when we should be creating more jobs.

ObamaCare also empowers the scandal-plagued IRS—an agency that, in 2010 alone, administered \$17 billion in improper payments to the earned income tax credit.

Where is the recovery America was promised? It is time we put America back in business.

### CALIFORNIA AVOCADO APPRECIATION MONTH

(Ms. BROWNLEY of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of my State's most important agricultural assets—the California avocado. This June, during the peak of the avocado growing season, we celebrate California Avocado Appreciation Month.

California avocados are both an economic driver as well as a healthy sodium- and cholesterol-free food option. Throughout California, family farms produce 90 percent of the Nation's avocados, and many of these farms and avocado groves are in my home in Ventura County. Growers in Ventura County are leading the way in avocado agriculture, and they are true stewards of the land. It is this stewardship and their hard work that makes the future of the California avocado so bright and Ventura County one of the most beautiful places in the country to live and work.

I look forward to joining my colleagues to further strengthen this important economic driver for California and for our country.

□ 1210

### AMERICAN ENERGY POLICY

(Mr. WALBERG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, the Motor Capital of Michigan currently has the second-highest gas prices in the country at over \$4 per gallon. Sadly, this reality is just another painful and needed reminder for the Senate and the President to work with the House in passing an all-of-the-above approach that expands American energy production, creates jobs, boosts manufacturing, makes energy more affordable, and allows America to be America.

The U.S. is a treasure trove of natural resources. New practices allow producers to easily extract natural gas, coal, and oil from the ground while doing it cheaper, safer, and with less disruption to the landscape.

Energy production also creates jobs. The Keystone XL pipeline project alone would create tens of thousands of jobs. The State Department declares it environmentally safe. Labor unions agree it will create jobs. Last month, the House passed H.R. 3, the Northern Route Approval Act, to clear the remaining barriers to construction of the project. But the administration refuses to move forward. Why? America deserves better.

The President and the Senate must join our efforts to help hardworking taxpayers and create jobs, create an economy, and allow America to be America.

### MILITARY SEXUAL ASSAULT

(Ms. HAHN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, the men and women who serve our country every day have to worry about the fate of losing a limb or losing their life facing the enemy, but they shouldn't have to worry about the insidious sexual assaults from their very own, nor should they have to live in the shadows of fear and intimidation and retaliation by their abuser.

According to our Department of Defense, 26,000 servicemen and service-women who serve our country were sexually assaulted in the military in 2012. That's more than 70 servicewomen and servicemen sexually assaulted every single day in our military. That's a scary statistic.

But what's even scarier is, due to a culture heavy on retaliation and light on prosecution, only 3,374 of those cases were even reported. This is a pervasive crisis that threatens the moral underpinnings of our military. We must take urgent action now.

I actually support the underlying changes of the defense bill that we're going to be voting on this week.

Congress should create a transparent and fair system that ensures the safety of our men and women in the armed services who have sacrificed enough.

### SMALL AIRCRAFT REVITALIZATION ACT

(Mr. POMPEO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POMPEO. Economic growth of just over 1½ percent is unsatisfactory. We all want a better economy and better jobs.

In south central Kansas, the aviation manufacturing industry has been hit particularly hard. Machinists, engineers, small business owners, and families are very worried about what their future might hold.

That's why I've offered bipartisan legislation offered in the Senate by Senator KLOBUCHAR which will reduce the burden on manufacturers who are building airplanes in the United States of America, trying to compete with global companies all across the world.

The Small Aircraft Revitalization Act, H.R. 1848, would greatly reduce that burden and help manufacturers all across south central Kansas and indeed all across America to get their products to market faster so that we can compete and provide aircraft, great tools for all businesses, to compete all around the world. It will replace an outdated certification system and greatly ease the burden on those who are trying to build these great products here in the United States.

This bill would ensure that this industry can continue to thrive in the years and decades ahead.